

**TOP SECRET**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

11 July 1955

**SUBJECT: Points Covered at Lockheed and Test Site on 8 July.**

1. [ ] and I discussed with Kelly Johnson while we were at Lockheed the problem of fire protection at the site. It was agreed:

a. That the only additional equipment we will need will be a conventional fire truck for the protection of buildings at the site, and that such a truck could almost certainly be borrowed [ ] after the test base is in operation.

b. That we would not need a fire crew on duty 24 hours a day but only when landings and take-offs were in progress; the rest of the time we would have to rely on security officers to keep watch and on the whole staff of the test base to act as an emergency fire crew.

c. That Lockheed would provide a fire crew, at least for the first month or two of operations at the test base; Kelly called [ ] and so advised him in the course of the conversation.

No definite decision was reached as to whether we would try to secure Air Force personnel to replace the Lockheed crew after the first several months. I suggested that a decision on this point be deferred for a few weeks.

2. It is clear that arrangements are not yet working smoothly for the clearance of aircraft to and from the site. Our flight on 8 July went off smoothly because [ ] had specifically arranged with [ ] to clear the C-47 in on the afternoon of the 8th. But some arrangements are going to have to be worked out whereby [ ] will be notified of incoming aircraft and will close out their flight plans. This will almost certainly require a trip to [ ] or someone else.

3. While at the test site I orally authorized [ ] to direct the contractor to carry out two small additional pieces of work. One of these is the construction of parts-storage bins in the main hangar. [ ] had blue prints of the work desired which consists mainly of putting up some 2x4s

TS-103616 ✓  
Copy 2 of 5

**TOP SECRET**

TOP SECRET

-2-

with wire screen at the rear of the hangar. Lockheed has already procured the metal shelves which will be set up inside the wired area. The other piece of work is to dig a trench and lay water and sewer lines to which the trailers can subsequently be connected.

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4. The main problem at the site continues to be the well. [ ] had already decided that nothing more will be done with the present well. The pump now on hand will be installed as far down in the well as possible. He still hopes the well will deliver about 15 gals. per minute which will be an adequate water supply at least for the next few months. As soon as possible, however, a new well must be drilled. A geologist was expected at the site 11 July to determine the best location for a new well. I urged [ ] to try to get a new crew started on a new well just as soon as possible so that drilling could be as far along as possible by 1 August. The rental supervisor at the site [ ] advises that it is virtually impossible to secure a well-drilling crew with any security clearances. Accordingly, we are going to have a difficult problem if the new well cannot be completed before actual flight operations have to be started. Kelly Johnson suggested that after 1 August, the well-drilling crew should live away from the site and should drill only at night. Some definite arrangements should be concluded by [ ] in the course of the next few days.

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TOP SECRET

TS-103616  
Cy 2 of 5